

## Testimony

### Opposition to HB 7150 – Pension Contributions

I am writing to express my concerns and strong opposition to **HB 7150**, which requires local school district/municipal participation in the cost of the annual pension contribution for their current teachers.

This could be disastrous for a town like Wilton that has been fiscally responsible in managing its budgets for many years. This bill would identify Wilton's share as 50% of the normal, meaning that the town would need to contribute hundreds of thousands of dollars to the state each year.

If Wilton is going to be forced to pay, our elected representatives ***must*** have a say in the negotiations. They currently do not. Local school districts negotiate teachers' salaries, but they do not negotiate the terms of their pensions, because the state does that. Asking the towns to pay for the costs of something in which they have had no say is not appropriate.

Forcing towns to pay these annual contributions will create gaps in their budgets, and thus will mean increased property taxes. This will without question lead to a continued exodus of taxpaying citizens who are tired of paying more and more taxes to make up for Hartford's mismanagement of our money!

Hartford lawmakers need to cut spending – this should be a number one priority. Stop forcing towns like Wilton that are playing by the rules and managing their budgets wisely to make up for Hartford's shortfall.

Robin W. Allen  
36 Cobblestone Place  
Wilton, CT 06897  
February 28, 2019